

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Side B
Crownsville, MD 21032
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Barbara Bond, Vice-Chair
Wes Adams, Esq.
Anne Bean
Barbara Darley for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Jessica Dickerson
Theresa Hiegel
Molly Knipe
Steve Levin, Esq.
LaJoy Preston
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Lisa Smith, Esq.
Jeanne Yeager

Guests:

Kathy Buckley, Consultant
Kerry Hannan, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Anne Hoyer, Secretary of State's Office
Lisae Jordan, Esq., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Brittany Luzader, Secretary of State's Office
Ja'Ara McCoy, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Lydia Watts, University of Maryland

Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Heather Amador, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Ellen Blonder, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Sabraya Knight, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Kelly welcomed new Board members, Ms. Preston, Maryland Police Chiefs Association representative, and Ms. Hiegel, victim service provider, to their first meeting.

II. GOCCP Updates

Ms. Darley, Deputy Director of the Victim Services Unit at the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (the Office), introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief background of her work experience and her vision for the Victim Services Unit within the Office. Two priorities of the Victim Services Unit are to address gaps in services and focus on victims of elder abuse. Ms. Darley also informed members of the merger between the Office and the Governor's Office for Children and introduced members to Heather Amador, Program and Policy Administrator of Victim Services at the Office.

III. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the October 2018 Board minutes and the Family Violence Council updates. Ms. Bond made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Levin seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. University of Maryland Victim Assistance Center

Ms. Watts provided members with an overview of the University of Maryland community-based victim assistance center. This center has received funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program through the Office to provide pro-bono legal services and victim assistance to victims of all types of crimes. There are currently social workers, staff attorneys and a nurse on site to assist victims, and they are hiring for additional staff. Legal interns provide additional assistance to clinic staff. The center is supported by the Immigration Clinic, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Board members discussed the importance of maintaining support to increase public awareness and fostering relationships with stakeholders and communities to better serve victims.

V. Ride-Sharing with Lyft

Ms. Hannan and Ms. McCoy provided members with a presentation of the partnership between the Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) and Lyft to provide transportation services to victims and families. BCAC provides forensic exams, mental health services, and support groups for children and families across the state. The partnership provided a solution to common barriers of transportation for victims. In 2018, approximately 1,800 trips were conducted to and from BCAC for victims and families. Those that have used the transportation services have expressed positive feedback for the ride-sharing services. BCAC staff serve as dispatchers for Lyft, and client confidentiality is maintained during the scheduling of a ride. All clients of the BCAC are eligible for the ride-sharing services.

VI. Technical Assistance - Mass Violence Plan

Ms. Buckley provided members with a presentation of the web-based Mass Violence Toolkit administered by the Office for Victims of Crime. Developed by experts in the field of emergency response, the Mass Violence Toolkit serves as a supplementary resource to current mass violence and victim assistance plans for individual states. The Toolkit contains resource videos and material to assist emergency response staff and stakeholders. There are three phases of the Mass Violence Toolkit, Partnership and Planning, Response and Recovery.

Ms. Buckley will be assisting the Board to develop a victim assistance response plan for incidents of mass violence in Maryland. Ms. Buckley emphasized the emotional, humane

element provided by the victim assistance plan and its importance when utilizing the resources of the emergency response when implementing victim assistance protocols. After the Board meeting, a subcommittee of the Board will meet to dive into what the plan will look like.

VII. 2019 Crime Victims' Rights Events

Ms. Allyn informed members that the 2019 Crime Victims' Rights Conference will take place on April 11, 2019, in College Park, MD. Conference registration will begin in February. Speakers and experts are currently being sought for an additional workshop. While GOCCP staff provide overall assistance and preparation for the conference, Ms. Allyn encouraged Board members to assist whenever possible.

The Annual Memorial Services for Crime Victims and their Families will be held on Sunday, April 7 in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, and St. Mary's counties. Invitations for the Annual Memorial Services are currently being developed. Locations for each memorial services have been confirmed and will be provided to Board members. Board members are encouraged to attend these services.

VIII. Maryland Victims of Crime & Legal Services for Crime Victims Grant Applications

Board members will be assisting with reviewing grant applications for the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC) and Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund (LSCV). Members were provided with a timeline of grant applications for the FY 2020 LSCV and the FY 2020 MVOC grant applications. A minimum of 3 board members will be evaluating each application, and Ms. Allyn encouraged all board members to participate in the grant review process.

IX. Old/New Business

Ms. Allyn informed members that a survey will be disseminated for feedback on the current DNA Notification Request Form to determine if law enforcement agencies have protocols to receive the form and notify victims. Board members will assist with the questions for the survey.

Ms. Knipe informed members that the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County's new shelter opens in February. The YWCA's Collective Impact Initiative has been able to convene multiple organizations through both the design team and 1:1 interviews. The project is on schedule for completion June 30, 2019, and the team will begin drafting preliminary implementation strategies in March 2019. The group clearly sees this as an opportunity to 1) improve upon the system of care available to survivors (streamlining services/referrals) while 2) strategizing around both programmatic development [new services] and deletion of redundancies. The process provides an incredible opportunity to improve upon the system of care while not necessarily adding great cost.

Mr. Adams informed members of a current legislative proposal that prevents the use of certain DNA databases similar to 23andMe by law enforcement unless specifically requested.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Adams seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Main Conference Room, 1st Floor - Side B
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032